



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – Nelson J. Sabatini, Secretary

Office of Operations, Eligibility & Pharmacy
Medical Care Programs

Joseph E. Davis
Executive Director

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Pharmacy Transmittal No. 175**

May 24, 2004

TO: Pharmacies
Managed Care Organizations

FROM: Joseph E. Davis, Executive Director
Office of Operations, Eligibility and Pharmacy

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

RE: **Changes to Pharmacy Dispensing Fee and Copayment for Prescriptions**

Effective July 1, 2004, the Maryland Pharmacy Program is changing the pharmacy dispensing fee paid for fee-for-service prescriptions. The dispensing fee for retail prescriptions will be \$3.69 for generic drugs and brand name drugs on the preferred drug list and \$2.69 for brand name drugs not on the preferred drug list. The dispensing fee for prescriptions for recipients residing in nursing homes will be \$4.69 for generic drugs and brand name drugs on the preferred drug list and \$3.69 for brand name drugs not on the preferred drug list.

Effective July 1, 2004 there will be a \$1.00 copayment for fee-for-service prescriptions for generic drugs and brand name drugs on the preferred drug list. These prescriptions previously did not have a copayment. Prescriptions for brand name drugs not on the preferred drug list will continue to have a \$2.00 copayment. Children under 21 years old, pregnant women or recipients in a nursing home will not be charged a copayment. Also, there is no copayment for prescriptions for family planning drugs. The pharmacy may not deny services to recipients unable to pay the co-payment.

The above changes do not apply to prescriptions paid by managed care organizations. They will be responsible for instructing pharmacies on their individual payment methodology.

The copayment for the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program remains \$2.50 for generic drugs and brand name drugs on the preferred drug list and \$7.50 for brand name drugs not on the preferred drug list. The copayment for prescriptions under the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program is not changing and is 65% of the Medicaid allowed amount. Pharmacies are not required to fill prescriptions for recipients unable to pay this co-payment.

Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to the Division of Pharmacy Services, 410-767-1455.